

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 6 – The Fall of Rome and Rise of the Papacy (400 to 600 A.D.)

This time period sees the official end of the Western Roman Empire, leaving the emerging Catholic Church headquartered in Rome as the one stable and durable institution in the midst of a political and cultural collapse.

A. Background/Major Events

1. Who were the Huns (e.g., Attila the Hun) and what likely role did they play in the "Great Migration" or "Wandering of the Nations from 376 to 476 A.D.?"
2. Who were the Visigoths and what happened in Rome in 410 A.D.?
3. Who were the Vandals and what happened in Rome in 455 A.D.?
4. What happened to Rome in 476 A.D.?
5. According to <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-reasons-why-rome-fell> (or any other source you find), give at least three reasons offered for the fall of the Western Empire.
6. What was the Byzantine Empire and how long did it last?

B. Authority

1. Who was Leo the Great (400 to 461 A.D.) and what decree did he receive from Emperor Valentinian III in 445?
2. What is an "episcopal see"? What was decided at the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) regarding the relative positions of the See of Rome, the See of Constantinople, and the other sees?
3. Who was Boniface III and what decree did he receive from Emperor Phocas in 606 A.D.?

C. Doctrines

1. Regarding the nature of deity:
 - a. What was Nestorianism?
 - b. What was Eutychianism or Monophysitism?
2. Regarding salvation:
 - a. Who was Augustine of Hippo (354 to 430 A.D.) and what did he teach regarding sin, the nature of man, and salvation?
 - b. Who was Pelagius (~400 A.D.) and what was Pelagianism?
 - c. What decision did the Council of Carthage (418 A.D.) and the Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.) make regarding the teachings of Augustine and Pelagius?
 - d. What was Semi-Pelagianism and what decision did the Second Synod of Orange (529 A.D.) make regarding it?
 - e. How would you relate the teachings of Augustine and Pelagius to those of John Calvin (1509 to 1564 A.D.) and Jacobus Arminius (1560 to 1609 A.D.) over 1000 years later?
 - f. What is Purgatory and what did Pope Gregory the Great (540 to 604 A.D.) say about it? How does this compare with Luke 16 (especially verse 26) and Heb. 9:27?
3. Regarding worship

- a. What did the Council of Ephesus (431) declare regarding Mary?

D. Divisions/Conflicts

1. According to <http://www.themiddleages.net/people/agustine.html>, what did Augustine teach regarding the use of force against Donatists?

E. Special Topics

1. Who was Magonus Sucatus Patricius (390 to 460 A.D.)?